

**CONSERVATION AGREEMENT  
FOR  
RIO GRANDE CUTTHROAT TROUT  
(*Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis*)**

**IN THE STATES OF  
COLORADO AND NEW MEXICO**



Figure 1 Rio Grande cutthroat trout from Comanche Creek, NM. Photo courtesy of NMDGF.

October 2013

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## Acknowledgments

Preparation of the original June 2003 Conservation Agreement (RGCT Conservation Team, 2003) was coordinated by Tom Nesler, Colorado Division of Wildlife, with assistance from Peter Wilkinson, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF). In 2009 the Agreement was revised by Mike Japhet and John Alves Colorado Division of Wildlife, with assistance from writing team members Tom Nesler, Bruce Rosenlund, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Kirk Patten, NMDGF. This 2013 Agreement was revised by John Alves and Harry Crockett (Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife [CDPW, formerly CDOW]). Biologists, researchers, and administrators from all signatory agencies provided significant input to this document.

## Citation

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## CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

### **RIO GRANDE CUTTHROAT TROUT (*Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis*)**

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This Conservation Agreement (Agreement) and associated Conservation Strategy (Strategy) have been developed to expedite implementation of conservation measures for Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (RGCT) in Colorado and New Mexico as a collaborative and cooperative effort among resource agencies. Threats that warrant RGCT listing as a special status species by state and federal agencies and might lead to listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, will be eliminated or reduced through implementation of this Agreement and Strategy along with state plans for Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout in Colorado and New Mexico. This Agreement is a collaborative effort among state, federal, and tribal resource agencies designed to provide a framework for the long-term conservation of RGCT.

#### **I. INVOLVED PARTIES**

Colorado Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks and Wildlife  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish  
PO Box 25112  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

U. S. Forest Service, Region 2  
PO Box 25127  
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U. S. Forest Service, Region 3  
333 Broadway SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2  
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Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6  
PO Box 25486  
Denver, CO 80025

Bureau of Land Management  
2850 Youngfield Street  
Lakewood, CO 80215-7093

Bureau of Land Management  
301 Dinosaur Trail  
PO Box 27115  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

National Park Service  
Intermountain Region  
12795 Alameda Parkway  
Denver, CO 80225

Jicarilla Apache Nation  
Jicarilla Game and Fish Department  
PO Box 313  
Dulce, NM 87528

Mescalero Apache Nation  
PO Box 224  
Mescalero, NM 88340

Taos Pueblo Warchief  
Office of Natural Resource Protection  
P.O. Box 2596  
Taos, NM 87571

**Supporting organizations** – These groups support the work of the Conservation Team, attend meetings, and contribute time and resources to Rio Grande cutthroat trout conservation but are not signatories to the Conservation Agreement.

Colorado Trout Unlimited  
620 16<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 300  
Denver, CO 80202

New Mexico Council of Trout Unlimited  
P.O. Box 32952  
Santa Fe, NM 87594

Separate cooperative agreements may be developed with other jurisdictions of federal land management agencies such as the U. S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and National Park Service (NPS), and other additional, supporting entities as necessary to ensure implementation of specific conservation measures. In addition, interested government agencies and conservation groups will be given opportunity to review and provide input on specific actions.

The National Memorandum of Agreement regarding ESA consultation and coordination (MOU #94-SMU-058) among the participating Federal agencies is in furtherance of conservation of species tending toward Federal listing as threatened or endangered under the ESA (Section 2; Section 4(a)(1)). Implementation of the Agreement and Strategy will be through existing Federal and state authorities such as the Clean Water Act, National Forest Management Act (NFMA), Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), NEPA, Sikes Act of 1974, as amended, Wilderness Act of 1964, as amended, Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978, and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Part 1501).

## **II. DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS OF RIO GRANDE CUTTHROAT TROUT**

The historic range of RGCT cannot be known with certainty, but it is probable the subspecies occupied the colder reaches of streams in the mountainous portions of the Rio Grande, Canadian, and Pecos River drainages in Colorado and New Mexico (Behnke, 1992 and 2002). The RGCT was first described from Utah (Ute) Creek, a tributary of the Rio Grande near Fort Garland, Colorado (Girard, 1857). Widespread introductions of nonnative salmonids over the last century, however, have served to limit current distributions of RGCT primarily to isolated headwater streams and lakes. Declines in RGCT distribution have been documented in a number of reports (Behnke, 1979, Pritchard and Cowley, 2006). To quantify the current distribution in a more rigorous fashion, the RGCT Conservation Team worked with agency experts to develop a spatially referenced Geographic Information System (RGCT GIS) that contains all available information on the abundance, genetic integrity, and distribution of the subspecies relative to its historic range (Alves et al., 2008). The 2008 status assessment (Alves et al., 2008)



used the best scientific information available, along with a strict decision-making protocol to develop the most rigorous estimate of current and historic range available. This recent assessment identified 810 miles of occupied stream habitat (12% of historically occupied habitat).

Rio Grande cutthroat trout have hybridized with nonnative salmonids in many areas, reducing the genetic integrity of this subspecies. As such, hybridization is clearly recognized as having a strong influence upon RGCT status. Although there is still some disagreement about the role that hybridized populations should play in status determinations and conservation strategies, the RGCT Conservation Team has adopted a position paper on genetic considerations associated with cutthroat trout management (UDWR, 2000) to guide establishing genetic purity definitions for RGCT. It suggests that populations with less than 10% introgression provide a practical and meaningful framework for assessing the status of the species. Populations meeting this genetic criterion are defined as conservation populations for this Agreement and in the RGCT GIS. One hundred twenty conservation populations were identified in the RGCT GIS in 2008, including 96 conservation populations with greater than 99% genetic purity (Alves et al., 2008). Restoration efforts have resulted in an additional seven conservation populations, such that there are 127 conservation populations identified in the 2012 RGCT GIS (RGCT Conservation Team, 2013).

The RGCT is designated as a species of special concern by Colorado and a species of greatest conservation need by New Mexico. Regions 2 and 3 of the USFS and the BLM in Colorado and New Mexico all classify the RGCT as a sensitive species. The RGCT had no status as a Federal Category 1 or 2 species prior to February 1986. It was not included as a Federal Candidate species thereafter. The RGCT was petitioned for federal listing in 1998. The petition was found to be “not substantial”. This decision was contested and a subsequent court settlement required completion of a status review and decision whether the species warranted federal candidate status. On June 11, 2002, the FWS published the “Candidate status review for Rio Grande cutthroat trout” (67FR39936). After reviewing the best scientific and commercial information available, FWS determined that the RGCT was not endangered and was not likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range and that listing as threatened or endangered was not warranted. In 2007, FWS announced a candidate status review for RGCT to be consistent with the new framework for analyzing “significant portion of its range” and to incorporate new information. On May 14, 2008, the FWS announced the results of the status review for RGCT under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that listing RGCT was warranted but precluded by higher priority actions. It was assigned a listing priority of 9, on a 1-12 descending scale.

### **III. GOALS**

The overall goal of this agreement is to assure the long-term viability of RGCT throughout their historic range. Areas that currently support RGCT will be maintained, while other areas will be managed for increased abundance. New populations will be established

where ecologically and economically feasible, while the genetic diversity of the species is maintained. The cooperators envision a future where threats to wild RGCT are either eliminated or reduced to the greatest extent possible.

#### IV. OBJECTIVES

***Objective 1: Identify and characterize all RGCT core and conservation populations and occupied habitat-*** Identify all waters with RGCT populations. Monitor known populations and their habitat to detect changes. Complete genetic analyses on known or potential RGCT populations.

***Objective 2: Secure and enhance conservation populations*** - Secure and, if necessary, enhance all known and suspected genetically pure RGCT populations. These efforts might include, but are not limited to:

- Restricting introduction of nonnative fish species near existing populations
- Restricting spread of disease and invasive species
- Removing nonnative fish species
- Regulating angling and enforcing regulations
- Constructing in-channel barriers
- Maintaining sources of genetically pure RGCT

***Objective 3: Restore populations*** - Increase the number of stream populations by restoring RGCT within their native range. Local restoration goals and approaches will be developed to meet this objective.

***Objective 4: Secure and enhance watershed conditions*** – Maintain and, if necessary, improve watershed conditions for RGCT, including development of protocols for monitoring.

***Objective 5: Public outreach*** – Develop and implement a public outreach effort specifically addressing RGCT conservation.

***Objective 6: Data sharing*** – Continue to build and maintain the RGCT GIS Database so that information can readily be shared between and among agencies and jurisdictions.

***Objective 7: Coordination*** – Maximize effectiveness of RGCT conservation efforts by coordinating signatory agency efforts toward achieving a common goal.

These goals and objectives will be reached by implementing specific management actions detailed in the Strategy. Upon signing, the signatories agree to commit resources in terms of personnel and operational funding to conservation activities described herein to the extent possible, assuming that progress toward the Strategy is measurable and documented. They also agree to ensure the implementation of those strategies detailed in the Strategy. A range-wide status assessment will be conducted every five years, and



results from that assessment will be used to update the Agreement, which will be revised at ten-year intervals until it is no longer deemed necessary.

## **V. OTHER SPECIES INVOLVED**

The primary focus of this Agreement is the conservation and enhancement of RGCT and the watersheds in Colorado and New Mexico upon which they depend; however, other species occurring within or adjacent to RGCT habitat should also benefit. Some of these species include Rio Grande sucker (*Catostomus plebeius*), Rio Grande chub (*Gila Pandora*), and boreal toad (*Bufo boreas*). Since the strategy focuses on ecosystem health, the Agreement will potentially ameliorate threats facing several of these species.

## **VI. AUTHORITY**

The authorities for the agencies and others to enter into this voluntary Agreement and Strategy derive from the ESA and a National Memorandum of Agreement which exists between the USFS, FWS, BLM, NPS, and the United States Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The authority of Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife to manage wildlife in Colorado is declared in CDPW Statutes 33-1-101. The authority of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to manage wildlife in New Mexico is declared in Chapter 17 of New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA).

- This Agreement is subject to and is intended to be consistent with all applicable federal, tribal, and state laws and interstate compacts. The signatory parties hereto enter into this Agreement under federal, state, and tribal laws as applicable.
- All parties to this Agreement recognize they each have specific statutory responsibilities that cannot be delegated, particularly with respect to the management and conservation of wildlife, its habitat, and the management, development and allocation of water resources. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to abrogate any of the parties' respective responsibilities.
- This instrument in no way restricts the parties involved from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations or individuals.
- All parties to this Agreement do not waive any immunity provided by federal, state, local or tribal laws by entering into this Agreement, and each fully retains all immunities and defenses provided by law with respect to any action based on or occurring as a result of this Agreement.
- The Jicarilla Apache Nation, Mescalero Apache Nations and Taos Pueblo maintain jurisdictional authority relative to species, habitat and land use management on tribal lands.

- Modifications to this Agreement must be mutually agreed upon by all signatories to the Agreement. Such changes shall be executed as an addendum to the original Agreement.

## **VII. Governing Documents and Existing Policies**

### ***A. Federal Management Practices and Policies***

**U.S. Forest Service** – The Santa Fe, Carson, and Rio Grande National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans provide guidance for all resource management activities on the forests and establish management standards and guidelines that ensure habitat is managed to provide for viable populations of existing native species. Rio Grande cutthroat trout has been identified as a management indicator species within the plans to help document the effects of management activities on aquatic communities. The respective plans also outline monitoring requirements for RGCT populations and their habitat.

Forest Service policy provides guidance and direction to manage Sensitive Species, which are not currently federally listed as endangered or threatened, to sustain viability and prevent the need for future listing as threatened or endangered. If a species is proposed for listing, forest actions will be evaluated to determine the effect of management practices on habitat and the need for consultation with FWS. Recovery activities will be pursued where applicable and areas where Sensitive Species occur will be managed to maintain and/or enhance habitat.

**National Park Service** - Fisheries management in the National Park System is directed by policy and guidelines that directs NPS to manage parks and monuments to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. Management policies emphasize the restoration and conservation of natural assemblages of native species. Native fish are managed with an emphasis on preservation or restoration of natural behavior, genetic diversity and ecological integrity.

**Bureau of Land Management** – It is BLM policy to manage or conserve all known special plant and animal species not yet listed as threatened or endangered to minimize the need for listing those species by either Federal or state governments in the future. The San Luis Resource Area Management Plan identifies resource and land use objectives and management actions for activities and lands administered by the BLM. Resource objectives include managing streams to maintain fisheries and to enhance, recover, or re-establish special status plants and animals.



**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** – The Rio Grande cutthroat trout is currently a candidate species for Federal listing under the ESA, indicating that the FWS has found the species to warrant listing, but higher priority actions have precluded the agency from doing so. Sections 2 and 7 of the ESA allow the FWS to enter into this Agreement and Strategy. Section 2 of the ESA states that encouraging interested parties, through Federal financial assistance and a system of incentives, to develop and maintain conservation programs is a key to safeguarding the Nation’s heritage in fish, wildlife, and plants. Section 7 of the ESA requires the FWS to review programs that it administers and to utilize such programs in furtherance of the purposes of the ESA. By entering into this conservation agreement, the FWS is utilizing its candidate conservation programs to further the conservation of the RGCT.

## ***B. State Policies and Regulations that Protect Fish and Fish Habitat***

### **Colorado**

In Colorado, it is the policy of the State that the wildlife and their environment are to be protected, preserved, enhanced, and managed for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of the State and its visitors (CDPW Statutes 33-1-101). Catch and release regulations with fly and lure only terminal tackle restrictions protect RGCT populations in 22 streams (148.8 stream miles) and three lakes (82 acres) (CDPW Regulations, Chapter 1, Article II-108, Special Regulation waters). These 25 populations have been judged potentially vulnerable to depletion with angler harvest and are therefore protected with special regulations.

Scientific collection of wildlife is regulated through a permit system (CDPW Regulations, Chapter 13) requiring a formal application stating project objectives, sampling methodologies, sampling sites, and need for collecting. Colorado policies and regulations protect salmonid habitat and populations from transmission of diseases (Wildlife Commission Policy D-9 and CDPW Regulations, Chapter 0, #14 and Appendices C and D).

### **New Mexico**

In New Mexico, Rio Grande cutthroat trout is managed as a protected species under Chapter 17 NMSA. It is also considered a species of greatest conservation need according to the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (NMDGF 2006). All trout with the characteristic red slash on its throat are subject to a reduced bag limit of two fish per day for recreational angling. Several populations are subject to special trout water regulations, which include catch-and-release, artificial fly or lure only, single barbless hook, and reduced bag limits. One population is currently closed to angling. Waters in or near Rio Grande cutthroat trout conservation populations are not stocked with nonnative trout species. If a conservation population is secured with a functional migration barrier, sterile,

triploid rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) may be stocked in appropriate downstream areas. New Mexico Department of Game and Fish does not allow private stocking of nonnative trout within areas that could jeopardize existing conservation populations. NMAC 19.35.7.15 requires disease free certification for all private and public hatcheries who wish to import fish for release into waters of the State. In addition, NMDGF does not stock any salmonid that is positive for a pathogen described in NMAC 19.35.7.15.

In addition, two conservation populations of Rio Grande cutthroat trout inhabit waters within Wildlife Management Areas owned by the New Mexico Game Commission. The purpose of these Wildlife Management Areas is to promote hunting and fishing opportunities in New Mexico.

### ***C. Native American Tribal Management***

It is well-established that Indian tribes in the United States are sovereign entities, and the Federal government is legally required to protect Indian trust resources for the benefit of the respective Indian pueblos, nations, and tribes. Indian trust resources generally include land, water, air, minerals, and wildlife, reserved or otherwise owned or held in benefit for Indian pueblos, nations, and tribes. In managing trust lands or assisting tribes in doing so, the Federal government must act for the exclusive benefit of the tribes and ensure that Indian lands and resources are protected and maintained for the physical, economic, social, and spiritual well-being of tribes.

Tribal lands are first and foremost homelands to Indian people, established to provide for their traditional, cultural, social, and economic benefit. As sovereign nations, tribes, and tribal lands are not subject to the same public laws that govern other lands within the United States, either public or private. As a result, several Executive Branch administrative directives and orders focus directly on the relationships of the FWS and other Interior Department agencies to tribes. The following are examples of such directives: Presidential Memorandum of April 29, 1994, Secretarial Order 3206, and Executive Order No. 13175.

The Presidential Memorandum of April 29, 1994, requires Federal departments to consult with tribal governments to the greatest extent practicable prior to taking actions that affect tribal governments. Federal departments must assess the impacts of Federal activities on tribal trust resources, and to ensure that tribal rights and concerns are taken into account during plan development and program implementation.

Secretarial Order 3206, reminds Interior agencies, bureaus and offices that Indian lands are not subject to the same controls as Federal lands. It instructs Interior agencies, bureaus, and offices to recognize that tribes are appropriate governmental entities to manage their lands and tribal trust resources and instructs them to



support tribal measures that preclude the need for conservation restrictions. At the same time, the Order strives to harmonize tribal concerns and interest about the ESA with Federal mandates to enforce it; and allows the tribes to develop their own conservation plans for the listed species that are more responsive to tribal needs. The order also states tribes have considerable authority to manage endangered species on Indian lands.

Executive Order No. 13175 instructs agencies, to the extent practicable and permitted by law, to consider any application by a tribal government for a waiver of statutory or regulatory requirements with a general view toward increasing opportunities for flexible approaches to governmental policies.

Nevertheless, the FWS and many tribes have expressed a willingness to work together on the conservation and recovery of RGCT. Tribes have gained considerable natural resource management expertise and FWS, along with other Federal agencies, recognize and acknowledge this expertise. Tribes have moved forward in an effort to establish new ways for Indian nations and FWS to interact regarding the recovery and conservation of RGCT.

Developing cooperative or conservation agreements between tribal governments and FWS that specifically address RGCT conservation on tribal lands could serve as a mechanism to establish partnerships that would enhance the survival of this species, while still providing tribes the flexibility to determine the extent of their involvement in ESA conservation. These documents establish a framework by which FWS and the tribes will recognize differences of opinion and interpretation, and work through problems toward a common goal of protecting and restoring Rio Grande cutthroat trout. These agreements and/or management plans could describe commitments tribes are willing to make to protect and manage Rio Grande cutthroat trout and could also describe commitments FWS would make to assist tribes in addressing RGCT on tribal lands. Formal agreements may not be necessary when tribal actions already meet mutually beneficial goals, and conservation management is already underway by tribes.

## **VIII. CONSERVATION ACTIONS**

The Strategy clearly outlines the actions to be implemented for the conservation of RGCT over the next ten years. In addition, four general administrative actions outlined below will be implemented.

### ***A. Coordinating Conservation Activities***

- The Conservation Team will implement the attached Strategy that encompasses the goals, objectives and strategies outlined herein.
- Administration of the Agreement will be conducted by the RGCT Conservation Team. The team shall consist of one designated representative

from each state and tribal wildlife agency, one from FWS, one each from the BLM, USFS, and NPS. The team may also include technical and legal advisors and other members as deemed necessary by the signatories.

- The designated team leader may rotate annually among the representatives from the two state wildlife agencies involved.
- Responsibilities of the Conservation Team shall include coordinating RGCT conservation activities among the agencies and making recommendations for the conservation of RGCT to the administrators of the signatory agencies.
- The Conservation Team will meet at least annually to document progress toward Strategy goals and objectives, develop range-wide priorities, review the annual conservation work plans developed for each state, and coordinate tasks and agency resources to most effectively implement the work plan. Updates to the RGCT GIS will also occur on an annual basis.
- Conservation Team meetings will be open to the public. Meeting summaries and progress reports will be available to the Conservation Team and to other interested parties. The meetings may also include technical and legal advisors and other members as deemed necessary by the signatories.

#### ***B. Implementing the Conservation Strategy***

- Each signatory to the Agreement will coordinate, implement and monitor actions in the Strategy for which they and their cooperators are responsible. Accomplishments will be reviewed in an annual summary report at Conservation Team meetings to establish progress toward the Conservation Strategy. Accomplishments will be summarized in the subsequent five-year status assessment.

#### ***C. Funding Conservation Actions***

- Funding for the Agreement may be provided by a variety of sources. Federal, state and local sources will need to provide or secure funding to initiate procedures and tasks of the Agreement.
- It is understood that all funds required for and expended in accordance with this Agreement are subject to approval by the appropriate local, state or federal appropriations. This instrument is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between parties to this instrument will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures, including those for government procurement and printing. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This



instrument does not provide such authority. Specifically, this instrument does not establish authority for noncompetitive awards to the cooperator of any contract or other agreement. Any contract or agreement for training or other services must fully comply with all applicable requirements for competition.

#### **D. *Conservation Progress Assessment***

- The Conservation Team will update the Range-Wide Status Assessment (Alves et al., 2008) at five-year intervals. The assessment will include information on the current distribution, genetic status, and presence of competing and hybridizing species, disease and other threats to RGCT. This information will be used to evaluate the foreseeable risks and general population health of existing conservation populations. The status assessment will also discuss progress towards meeting the goals and objectives outlined in the Conservation Strategy.
- Copies will be made available to cooperators and interested parties upon request.
- The need to extend the Agreement for another cycle will be driven by results summarized in that document.

### **IX. DURATION OF AGREEMENT**

The term of this Agreement shall be ten years. If the five-year status assessment indicates changes to the agreement are necessary, modifications could be made at that time. If all signatories agree that continued progress would benefit conservation of RGCT, this Agreement may be extended for an additional ten years. Any party may withdraw from this Agreement with sixty days written notice to the other parties.

### **X. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) COMPLIANCE**

Signing this Agreement is covered under authorities outlined in section VII listed above. Each signatory agency holds the responsibility to review planned actions for their area of concern to ensure conformance with existing land use plans and to ensure NEPA compliance.

### **XI. FEDERAL COMPLIANCE**

- During the performance of this Agreement, the participants agree to abide by the terms of Executive Order 11246 on nondiscrimination and will not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

- No member or delegate to Congress or resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this Agreement, or to any benefit that may arise there from, but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this Agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.



## **XII. SIGNATORIES**

This Conservation Agreement takes effect upon the signature of the directors of the following:

Colorado Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks and Wildlife  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish  
PO Box 25112  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

U. S. Forest Service, Region 2  
PO Box 25127  
Lakewood, CO 80225

U. S. Forest Service, Region 3  
333 Broadway SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2  
PO Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6  
PO Box 25486  
Denver, CO 80025

Bureau of Land Management  
2850 Youngfield Street  
Lakewood, CO 80215-7093

Bureau of Land Management  
301 Dinosaur Trail  
PO Box 27115  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

National Park Service  
Intermountain Region  
12795 Alameda Parkway  
Denver, CO 80225

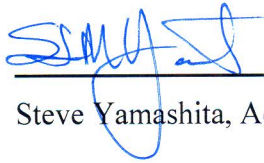
Jicarilla Apache Nation  
Jicarilla Game and Fish Department  
PO Box 313  
Dulce, NM 87528

Mescalero Apache Nation  
PO Box 224  
Mescalero, NM 88340

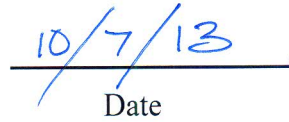
Taos Pueblo Warchief  
Office of Natural Resource Protection  
P.O. Box 2596  
Taos, NM 87571

-Signature Page-

1. Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SYAMASHITA', written over a horizontal line.

Steve Yamashita, Acting Director

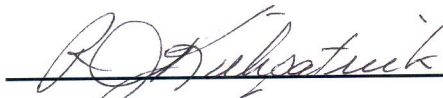
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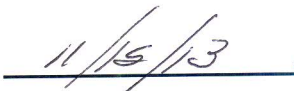
Date



-Signature Page-

2. New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
P.O. Box 25112  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
R.J. Kirkpatrick, Interim Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

-Signature Page-

3. U.S. Forest Service, Region 2  
P.O. Box 25127  
Lakewood, CO 80225

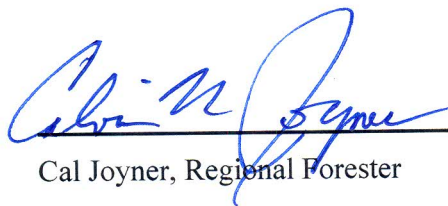
*for* *Dan Lerebee*  
Daniel Jiron, Regional Forester

*11/13/13*  
Date



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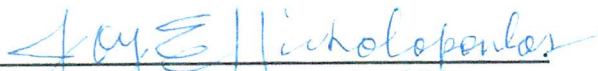
4. U.S. Forest Service, Region 3  
333 Broadway SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cal Joyner, Regional Forester

10/30/13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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5. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2  
P.O. Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

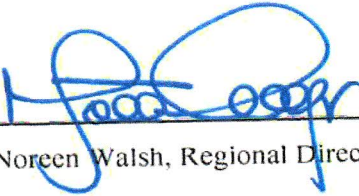
  
Dr. Benjamin N. Tuggle, Regional Director

NOV 15 2013

Date



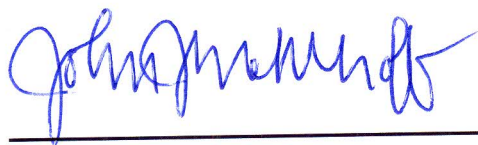
6. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6  
P.O. Box 25486  
Denver, CO 80025

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Noreen Walsh, Regional Director

11.26.13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

-Signature Page-

7. Bureau of Land Management  
2850 Youngfield Street  
Lakewood, CO 80215

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Mehlhoff", written over a horizontal line.

John Mehlhoff, Acting CO State Office Director

11-20-13

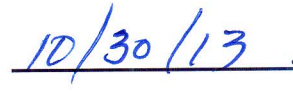
Date



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8. Bureau of Land Management  
301 Dinosaur Trail  
P.O. Box 27115  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

  
Jesse Juen, NM State Office Director

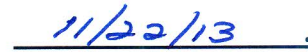
  
Date

-Signature Page-

9. National Park Service  
Intermountain Region  
12795 Alameda Pkwy  
Denver, CO 80225

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colin Campbell", is written over a horizontal line.

Colin Campbell, Acting Regional Director

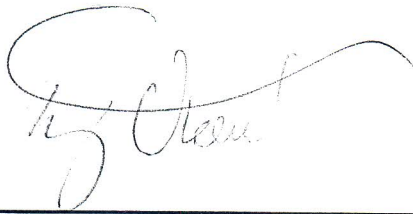
A handwritten date "11/22/13" in blue ink is written over a horizontal line.

Date

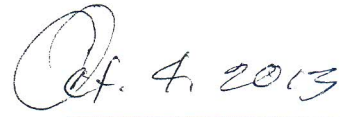


-Signature Page-

10. Jicarilla Apache Nation  
Jicarilla Game and Fish Department  
P.O. Box 507  
Dulce, NM 87528

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ty Vicenti", written over a horizontal line.

Ty Vicenti, President

A handwritten date "Apr. 4, 2013" written in cursive script, positioned above a horizontal line.

Date

-Signature Page-

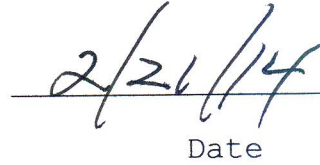
**11.** Mescalero Apache Nation

PO Box 224

Mescalero, NM 88340



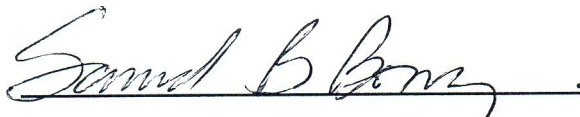
Mr. Danny Breuninger, President



Date

-Signature Page-

12. Taos Pueblo Warchief  
PO Box 2596  
Taos, NM 87571

  
Honorable Warchief Samuel G. Gomez

11-22-2013  
Date



### **XIII. SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS**

Colorado Trout Unlimited  
620 16<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 300  
Denver, CO 80202

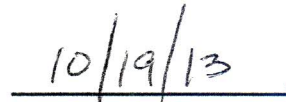
New Mexico Council of Trout Unlimited  
P.O. Box 32952  
Santa Fe, NM 87594

-Signature Page-

1. Colorado Trout Unlimited  
620 16<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 300  
Denver, CO 80202

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rick Matsumoto", is written over a horizontal line.

Rick Matsumoto, President

A handwritten date "10/19/13" is written over a horizontal line.

Date

-Signature Page-

2. New Mexico Council of Trout Unlimited  
P.O. Box 32952  
Santa Fe, NM 87594



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Arnold R Atkins, State Council Chairman

November 24, 2013

Date



#### XIV. LITERATURE CITED

- Alves, J. E., K. A. Patten, D. E. Brauch, and P. M. Jones. 2008. Range-wide status of Rio Grande cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki virginalis*): 2008. Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Conservation Team Report. Colorado Division of Wildlife, Fort Collins, Colorado.
- Behnke, R. J. 1979. Monograph of the native trouts of the genus *Salmo* of western North America. U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, Colorado.
- Behnke, R. J. 1992. Native trout of western North America. American Fisheries Society Monograph 6.
- Behnke, R. J. 2002. Trout and salmon of North America. Free Press, New York.
- Girard, C. 1857. Notice upon the species of the genus *Salmo* of authors observed chiefly in Oregon and California. Proceedings of Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, 8:217-200.
- Pritchard, V. L. and D. E. Cowley. 2006. Rio Grande cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis*): a technical conservation assessment. U.S.D.A. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region, Denver Colorado.
- RGCT Conservation Team. 2003. Conservation agreement for the range-wide preservation and management of the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis*). Division of Wildlife, Fort Collins, Colorado.
- RGCT Conservation Team. 2009. Conservation agreement for the range-wide preservation and management of the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis*). Division of Wildlife, Denver, Colorado.
- RGCT Conservation Team. 2013. Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Conservation Strategy by the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Range-wide Conservation Team. Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Denver, Colorado. 60 p.
- UDWR. 2000. Genetic considerations associated with cutthroat trout management. Publication Number 00-26. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Salt Lake City, Utah. 9 p.